

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 DPW-01 AID-20 IO-14 OMB-01

EUR-25 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 H-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-04 DRC-01

/142 W

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R 211031Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2919

INFO AMCONSUL CAN THO

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: CAI LAY INCIDENT PUBLICITY

REF: A) STATE 52430 B) SAIGON 3500

1. MATERIAL REQUESTED REF A IS BEING SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT (EA/VN)
MARCH 22 REGISTRY NO. 839232, UNCLASSIFIED POUCH NO. BR 1570,
INVOCIE NO. CX52.

2. MATERIAL INCLUDES:

A. TWO SETS OF SEVENTEEN PHOTOGRAPHS SELECTED FROM HOLDING OF THE
GENERAL POLITICAL WARFARE DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION,
NATIONAL POLICE AND OUR OWN EMBASSY SOURCES.

B. TWO ROLLS OF EXPOSED 16 MM MOTION PICTURE FILM SHOT AT
CAI LAY AND THE MY THO HOSPITAL MARCH 18. THESE WILL HAVE TO BE
PROCESSED IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE WE LACK THE FACILITIES HERE.

C. A BLACK AND WHITE FILM REPORT AND COMMENTARY ON THE CAI LAY
INCIDENT AND VIETNAMESE REACTION, OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL
MOTION PICTURE CENTER. A TRANSLATION OF THE SCRIPT IS ENCLOSED
IN THE CAN.

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D. ONE TAPE RECORDING OF BRIEF INTERVIEWS MARCH 18 WITH THE

CAI LAY DISTRICT CHIEF, DIRECTOR OF THE MY THO HOSPITAL AND TWO CHILDREN INJURED IN THE INCIDENT. A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTENT IS ENCLOSED IN THE BOX. THE TAPE MAY BE USEFUL IF VIETNAMESE VOICES ARE NEEDED AS "ACTUALITIES" IN RADIO SPOTS.

E. PRINTED MATERIALS INCLUDING PHOTOS WITH CAPTIONS CLIPPED FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, NEWS STORIES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, STORIES OF PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS, OFFICIAL NOTES OF PROTEST, QUOTATIONS FROM GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN AND EDITORIAL REACTION FROM SAIGON NEWSPAPERS. ALSO A REPORT ON THE COVERAGE OF THE CAI LAY INCIDENT BY THREE US TELEVISION NETWORKS, A LIST OF THE NAMES OF ALL DEAD AND WOUNDED AND FAMILY DATA ON EACH, AND A REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAI LAY COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE RELIEF GIFTS.

F. FBIS TAKES FROM RADIO HANOI AND THE "PRG'S" LIBERATION RADIO, WHICH SET FORTH THE COMMUNIST POSITION ON THE INCIDENT. IT IS NOTABLE THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS INCIDENT IS SO CLEAR CUT THAT THE ONLY RECOURSE FOR THE COMMUNISTS IS TO COMPLETELY REVERSE EVERY ASPECT OF THE INCIDENT. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO TURN WHITE INTO BLACK IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE LIBERATION RADIO TREATMENT OF THE IMPRESSIVE STUDENT PROTEST DEMONSTRATION IN THE TOTALLY GVN MUNICIPALITY OF MY THO.

3. THE CASUALTY FIGURES CITED IN THE MATERIAL BEING PROVIDED VARY WIDELY FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS: DISPERSION OF CASUALTIES, VARIETY OF SOURCES, DIFFERENT FILING DATES OF THE STORIES, AND THE VERNACULAR PRESS' GENERAL SLOPPINESS WITH DETAILS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FIGURES OF 32 SCHOOLBOY DEATHS (23 IMMEDIATELY, 9 LATER FROM WOUNDS) IS ACCURATE. THE NUMBER OF WOUNDED SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO PIN DOWN. THE INITIAL FIGURE CITED FOR WOUNDED SCHOOLBOYS WAS 43. THIS PROBABLY REPRESENTS THE NUMBER WHOSE WOUNDS WERE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO REQUIRE TREATMENT AT A HOSPITAL AND INCLUDED THE NINE WHO LATER DIED. ONE MIGHT THUS CONCLUDE THAT 34 BOYS SUFFERED RELATIVELY SERIOUS WOUNDS. SUBSEQUENTLY, FIGURES CITED FOR THE WOUNDED HAVE RANGED UP TO 80. THIS NUMBER WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO INCLUDE THE LESS SERIOUSLY OR SUPERFICIALLY WOUNDED WHO WERE TREATED BY THE DISPENSARIES IN CAI LAY AND RELEASED.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF DEPARTMENT'S PLANS FOR THE USE OF THIS MATERIAL. EMBASSY SAIGON WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IF DESIRABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FILMS, RECORDINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, MASSACRES, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT CASUALTIES, COMMUNISTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740060-0391
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740325/aaaaaxua.tel
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Office: ACTION EA
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Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAI LAY INCIDENT PUBLICITY
TAGS: MOPS, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005